



Scuttlebutt

December, 2025 – Issue #282

Captain's Log

[Ken Caruso, WO1N](#)



Hi all,

I spent the CQWW CW weekend at the KC1XX superstation. I was partnered with two Contest Hall of Fame inductees, Bill, K1GQ and Dave, KM3T. Together, we piloted the 80M station all weekend.

The [KC1XX station](#) received significant upgrades over the summer, particularly the 80M antenna system. We are talking 2/2 element phased delta loops at 50 and 100 meters (NE/SW), 2 element phased delta loops at 60 meters (NW/SE), a rotary dipole at 35 meters and a ¼ Wave Vertical element. All other band positions received similar switching updates.

The selection of antenna can now be fully shared between the two in-band radios with the push of a button. Integrated lockouts keep it all legal with one transmitted signal at a time. Choose your weapon!

The 80M team worked 1188Q's, 32 Zones and 116 countries on 80 alone. The remaining 13 team members powered us to provisional MM results that show us first place in the US and possibly 4th world. I hope you all had as much fun as I did in the contest.

Polling Results

The impetus for the Poll, "Which Contest Logger are you Using?" was to confirm that N1MM+ is the predominant logger that the Club uses.

(Continued on Page 2)

Contents

Captain's Log	1
Club Contacts	2
Area Managers	2
Once in a Lifetime Occurrence by KK1L	3
Open Club Positions	3
Twin-Lead Balun by K2TR	4
Select DX Operations	4
WRTC2026 Coins Available	5
World Wide Award - N1W	5
Directors Meeting Minutes	6
From the Editor	6
Errata & Updates	6
YCCC Club Resource Info	7

Upcoming Contests

ARRL 160-Meter Contest	Dec 5-7
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	Dec 13-14
RAC Winter Contest	Dec 20
ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	Dec 21
ARRL RTTY Roundup	Jan 3-4
North American QSO Party, CW	Jan 10-11
North American QSO Party, SSB	Jan 17-18
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	Jan 23-25
Winter Field Day	Jan 24-25
Vermont QSO Party	Feb 7-8

[Courtesy of WA7BNM](#)



Above: the team at KC1XX during CQWW CW
(photo by WO1N)

See the results:

Logger	Responses	Percent
N1MM+	60	74.1%
Wintest	2	2.5%
Writelog	5	6.2%
DXlog	6	7.4%
CT	1	1%
N3FJP	3	3.75%
Other	4	4.9%

81 out of 260 members responded. Looks like N1MM+ it is. Thank you.

The Poll, "Is your computer connected to your radio" was born out of an interaction with a Club member who has been religiously submitting scores where he could but had never connected his radio to his computer. That meant making sure he manually entered band changes. Additionally, he had never connected to the telnet cluster missing out on many good multipliers for the limit operating times he was on. After pulling him through those knot holes his submitted score for the CQWW DX sideband contest was up appreciably from his prior efforts.

Could this be a problem for other Club members? Well, 56/58 responded that they were connected. One of the two replied back he got confused by the comments that accompanied the poll question and in fact his computer is connected to his radio. This doesn't seem like it's a 20% problem or even a 5% problem. However, if you need support setting up computer control, please reach out to your Area manager or any Club officer.

Spotting

Our objective here is to encourage spotting of all contest participants and to reward the spotting of YCCC members since these logs count for the YCCC Club score. We are not encouraging cheerleading. We are encouraging spotting. Fill that band map up as you sweep up. Not everyone is connected to the skimmers, so manual spots are critical for those ops and helpful for the running station.

Club Contacts

President	Ken Caruso, WO1N
Vice President	Paul Young, K1XM
Activities	Rudy Bakalov, N2WQ
Secretary	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F
Treasurer	Bob Shohet, KO2M
Editor	Mike DeChristopher, N1TA
Webmaster	Mike Gilmer, N2MG
Scorekeeper	Mike Visich, NG1M

Area Managers

ME	Joe Blinick, K1JB
NE MA (978/351)	Ken Caruso, WO1N
SE MA (508/774)	Charlie Morrison, N1RR
Boston (617/781)	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P
WMA (413)	Jeff Bail, NT1K
ECT (860/959)	Open
WCT (203/475)	Open
NH	Dave Mackey, K1KA
RI	Dave Neil, W2DAN
NNY (518/315)	John Corini, KE1IH
NYC/LI (718/631/212)	Allen Singer, N2KW
SNY/NJ/PA (914)	Open
VT (802)	Chris Knox, K1P
Quebec	Guy Lemieux, VE2BWL
Cape & Islands	Open

Spotting is positive and helpful and increases everyone's score directly and indirectly. Our goal is to promote this beneficial operating activity to improve the Club's scores. With respect to the nascent Scoreboard concept your total YCCC award points will equal your contest points + your spotting points.

Don't forget to [weigh in on the QST December Cover Poll](#). Not encouraging *cheerleading* here, but Fred, K2TR is in the running this month with his article on a stacked 6 meter beam design he has done 😊.

Finally, I would like to recognize Joe, K1JB for stepping up to be our Maine Area Manager to replace Mike, K1EU who, I have been told, has been experiencing some health issues of late. Thank you, Joe!

73, Ken – WO1N ♦

Once in a Lifetime Occurrence

[Ron Rossi, KK1L](#)

Early this November I was travelling in Korea on business to visit one of our suppliers with a customer. At the lunch break our teams were getting to know each other. Ham radio came up as one of my hobbies. I was describing what it was, how exciting it is to make contacts around the world, and that reaching out to Asia from the east coast of the US is pretty rare. There was pretty enthusiastic interest at the table. SeHue Oh, sitting next to me, says "My father is a ham radio", and proudly added that he helped him put up his antenna on the top of his apartment building in Soule. Well, heck, that is pretty cool. He knew his callsign, HL2ZN. Of course I wanted to know if I had worked him or not. I only have my mobile and a work laptop with access restrictions, so getting access to my home desktop was a non-starter. It did not take me too long to figure out I could check my log on QRZ.COM later.



I found that I HAD had a QSO with SeHue's dad!! WHAAAT! Despite my working in a technical field it is not all that common to run into other radio operators. Now out of a half dozen Koreans in the room someone was related to one of the 20 Korean hams I contacted in my 32 years in ham radio! Okay, yeah, that is pretty darned special. The next day I filled out a QSL card (which I carry with me when I travel) and made sure to get some pictures. This is wicked super awesome! ♦

Open Positions in YCCC

[Ken Caruso, WO1N](#)

Area manager openings (4): Eastern CT, Western CT, Cape and Islands, SNY/NJ/PA

The Area Manager role is described in Section 5 of the Club bylaws: *"Area Managers shall be appointed for such areas deemed appropriate by the President. These Managers shall be responsible for serving the interests of members in their area, which may include assisting in antenna projects, helping procure transportation to Club meetings, and recruiting new members."*

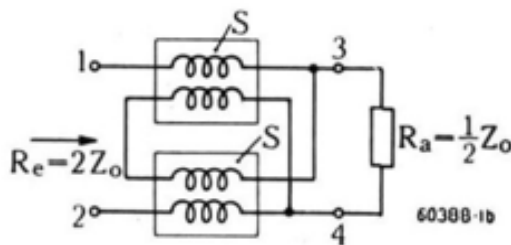
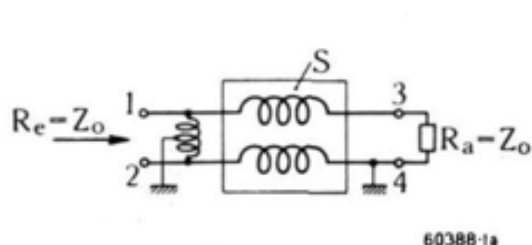
In practical terms, Area managers are called upon to organize local area meetings, either live or Zoom, and define resources within the area that can be called upon should Club members put out a call for assistance with antenna projects. Additionally, Area Managers do some recruiting at area get togethers (Hamfests, flea markets etc.). Finally, they are asked to report back on a regular basis to the Club as to activities within the area. We are encouraging Area Managers to be a bit more active. We think it is a good approach to engage new members in developing a sense of belonging to the Club other than the few live meetings we have each year.

If you think you can fulfill any of these roles, please drop me a note at president@yccc.org. ♦

Twin-Lead Balun

Fred Lass, K2TR

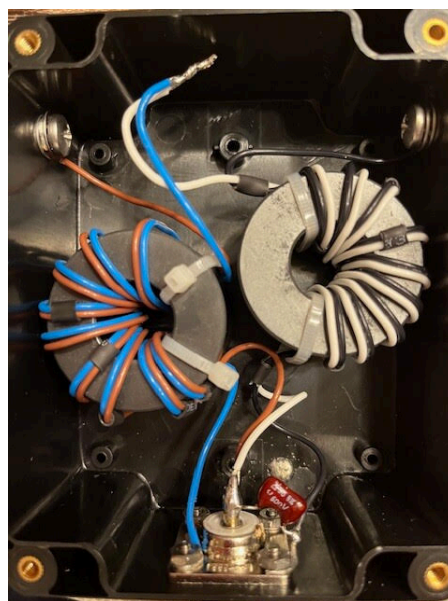
I have an opinion on baluns that I've never seen explained explicitly. Rather than winding 50 ohm coax around a toroid, you can wind 100 ohm twin lead around a core. This is essentially the design that Guanella published in 1944!



The drawing above is a 4:1 balun, with two 100 ohm inputs in parallel for 50 ohms and the secondaries in series for 200 ohms. By splitting the current into two paths, the ohmage losses are 1/4 of a single core. To get the same advantage in a 1:1 balun, just put the secondaries in parallel. Because the copper losses are lower, core heating problems diminish accordingly.

Here is a picture of one that I built. Note that the cores are not the usual FT-240 toroids, but squat 2643251002 type 43 cores that have 1.5 times the cross section area per core, netting 3 times the power handling of a single FT-240, but with much less core heating!

The wire is Teflon insulated and silver plated. There is a compensation capacitor to improve the match on 10 meters. This particular balun was built for a 160/80 meter OCF dipole used on winter field day. ♦



Select DX Operations

December, 2025			
Start	End	DXCC	Call
Dec01	Dec10	Maldives	8Q7HT
Dec01	Dec22	Chad	TT1GD
Dec01	Dec31	Gambia	C5YK
Dec04	Dec06	Jamaica	6Y/W2ELS
Dec04	Dec14	Peru	OA4/N7IDX
Dec07	Jan05	Guatemala	TG9/AF4CZ
Dec10	Dec17	Palau	T88AC
Dec17	Dec29	Trin & Tob	9Y9DX
Dec21	Dec27	Bangladesh	S21DX
Dec21	Jan02	Surinam	PZ5OZ
Dec22	Jan15	Fr Guiana	TO2FY
Dec26	Jan03	Azerbaijan	4K/DL4XT
Dec30	Jan03	Mariana Is	KH0/AJ6VJ
Dec30	Jan03	Monaco	3A/MM0NDX

January, 2026			
Start	End	DXCC	Call
Jan01	Feb16	Grenada	J3WG
Jan06	Feb06	Benin	TY5GG
Jan13	Jan21	Sint Maarten	PJ7/IZ2DPX
Jan18	Jan24	Maldives	8Q7JI
Jan20	Feb10	Guadeloupe	FG4KH
Jan22	Feb28	Micronesia	V660XGI
Jan22	Mar31	Curacao	PJ2/W2APF

Data from [NG3K.com](https://www.ng3k.com). Please submit YCCC member DXpeditions to [the editor](#) to be included here.

WRTC2026 Coins Available

[Mark Pride, K1RX](#)



A \$125 (or more) donation will secure your WRTC Special SILVER coin – only 3 weeks left!

You'll be helping to make WRTC UK happen. We still have a journey ahead for the fundraising efforts to reach the goal of £850,000 total.

[Donate by PayPal or Stripe \(credit card\)](#). I am holding coins here to help save the expense of shipping them from the UK. One of my many donations to the cause.

Availability expires December 31, so please make that \$125+ donation to receive this nice commemorative coin.

For more information, visit wrtc2026.org/donate.

Regards,

Mark, K1RX

NA Fundraising Lead, WRTC2026 UK ♦

World Wide Award - N1W

[John Evanson, WJ1U](#)

Hey everyone! It's getting close to the [January World Wide Award](#), which, if you are not familiar, is an operating event that runs the whole month of January where chasers try to make contacts with as many of the special calls as they can each day. Randy, K5ZD, used to organize the special call for 1-land (N1W), but since he has moved away to 8-land, he has passed the torch to me and John, NN1SS.

Being an activator is a lot of fun and is also great practice for running pileups in the contests. The event features real-time logging through hamaward.cloud, which requires some minimal setup to make it work with your favorite logging program (most of the major contest loggers are supported), and then you just get on the air from your station and run guys, logging them as normal. To avoid any last-minute setup stress, there's a period before the event starts where a test instance of the software is running and you can make sure you've got everything operating properly.

The event is on 80 through 10 meters (including the WARC bands) using CW, SSB, or Digi (FT8/FT4/RTTY/PSK), so there's a lot of flexibility on what band/mode you want to operate on. Chasers can work special calls once per day per band/mode, creating a lot of potential activity. The software keeps track of where your fellow N1W operators are located (one per band/mode combo at a time), making it easy to coordinate without complex scheduling ahead of time.

N1W is looking just for people who are operating from 1-land (there are other special calls for some of the other areas). It would be great if you are able to do at least a few hours a week, but there's no big commitment needed, and as mentioned there's no fixed, up-front schedule you have to follow. I did this event last year with my modest 100W & a wire station and still enjoyed lots of fun pileups, so you don't need to be a big gun to participate either.

If you are interested in being an N1W activator, [please let me know](#), and I will get you signed up! ♦

Directors Meeting Minutes – November, 2025

A Directors meeting was held on 11/04/2025 via Zoom. In attendance were Directors WO1N, K1XM, N2WQ, NJ1F. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

WO1N related an interaction with a Club member who needed some encouragement to connect his computer to his radio. WO1N plans a poll to determine how many other members need help here.

The Directors worked on a response to member concerns about spot cheerleading.

WO1N revealed the new PayPal link that will get members directly to the correct PayPal account to pay their dues. This needs to be incorporated into the Club resources.

WO1N led a discussion to determine if any Club response was needed regarding the letter from K1LZ regarding the 3Y0 expedition. The Directors concluded this is an unfortunate situation but saw no need for any action or response from the Club.

WO1N solicited input for potential topics for a Pre-CQWW CW Zoom meeting.

The Directors then discussed the prototype Scorekeeping website that Rudy, N2WQ implemented. This was an outcome of the action item he took to look into what other clubs are doing for tracking member participation and performance. This website directly addresses the upfront data collection and analysis that can be the downfall of many programs like this.

What we do with the data is yet to be determined. How do we handle out of area members, yearly resets vs rolling data accumulation etc. What are the awards? Most improved Yr/Yr? First time participants? Participation in other contests? Etc. No definitive plans or programs were defined. Further discussion is needed.

Directors were polled for new business and hearing none the meeting was closed at 8:45 PM.

Director's meeting minutes are provided for informational purposes only and a membership vote is not required.

From the Editor

[Mike DeChristopher, N1TA](#)



Thanks to all those who submitted content for this edition of the *Scuttlebutt*. I remain forever impressed at the breadth and depth of knowledge we have among our membership, and especially your willingness to share that knowledge with others.

If you are interested in writing a column, submitting a one-off article, or just have an update to share for our February 2026 issue, please email editor@yccc.org.

Happy Holidays and KB! ♦

Errata & Updates

- October, 2025 (Issue #281): Dave Mackey's name is misspelled in the byline, page 5
- Clicking on "YCCC Scuttlebutt" in the footer on any page will now return you to the first page
- Updated badge ordering process in the Club Resources section, thanks to Tony, K1KP

YCCC Club Resource Information

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF: Dues for the year are payable as of January 1st. Please note that payment of current dues IS NOT a prerequisite for contributing scores to the Club aggregate but IS required for participation in the Club's email reflector and the Club's awards programs. The YCCC has a multi-tiered membership:

Full Member - \$25 (Available to amateurs residing within the Club territory for all YCCC member benefits and e-mail delivery of the Club newsletter.)

Family Member - \$0 (Grants full membership benefits to all family amateurs residing at one domicile upon payment of one member's "Full Member" annual dues. The Club Newsletter will be sent to the full member's email address.)

Student Member - \$10 (Grants full membership to students at a reduced cost.) Subscription- \$10 (A "friend of YCCC", not a member, but a possible candidate for future membership and receives club newsletter in e-mail form.)

Former Member - \$0 (A former full member who has moved out of the Club territory may continue to participate in the Club's e-mail reflector and receive the e-mailed newsletter at no cost.)

You can tell if you owe dues by checking the Club roster on the website. (<https://yccc.org/roster>) A lapsed member can reinstate lost privileges by paying the current year dues. PayPal is preferred to Yankee Clipper Contest Club, Inc. or mail a check made out to the YCCC to the Treasurer, Bob Shohet, KQ2M. Please include your callsign, family callsigns, and year(s) being paid. Note: If paying by PayPal; PayPal no longer allows the Club to receive dues from "family or friends" so you will not have that option.

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, editor@yccc.org. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month or as announced on the YCCC e-mail list. Scuttlebutt Advertising: Nominal Business Card sized ad, \$50 per year (6 appearances)

CONTEST SCORES should be reported on 3830Scores.com. Additionally, post your scores to the Club Reflector. Include the 3830 Scores formatted output or the output from your favorite contest logger.

BADGES: YCCC badges are available. Send \$3 to the Treasurer via PayPal as above; then send name and call desired on the badge and mailing address to Tony.K1KP.

QSL CARDS are ordered through Tom, W1TO. To order, [complete the QSL form from the YCCC website](#), send it to W1TO who will verify all information is included and send to UX5UO after resolving any issues. You will receive a proof copy directly from UX5UO. Approve the proof after resolving any issues with UX5UO. Email acceptance to UX5UO with copy to W1TO. Current price is \$45/thousand (matte) and \$49/thousand heavy matte. Payment to UX5UO representative, KD4POJ at Mr David Lipscomb, KD4POJ, 4201 13th Street NE, Minot, ND, 58703. Email: kd4poj@srt.com

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER is posted on the [YCCC website](#). Updates are published in 'Movers and Shakers' when members move or change callsigns.

CLUB EMAIL REFLECTOR: To subscribe, go to <https://groups.io/g/yccc/join> and enter your email address.

WWW HOME PAGE: visit us at <http://www.yccc.org>. Our Webmaster is Mike Gilmer, N2MG.

QSL BUREAU: The W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. For more information see: www.w1qsl.org; Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 73, Marlborough, MA 01752-0073. Email: w1qsl@w1qsl.org